UNITED NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/874
S/1999/321
24 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 22 March 1999 (A/53/871-S/1999/310), I have the honour to draw your attention to new and increasing violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 19, 21 and 22 March 1999.

On 19 March 1999, two Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations.

These aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. On the evening of the same day, both aircraft departed at 1950 hours and 2135 hours, respectively, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region. Furthermore the C-160, mentioned in the violation of 18 March, departed the illegal airport 1659 hours returning to the Ankara flight information region.

On 21 March 1999, 17 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (12 F-16, 2 C-130, 1 C-160 and 1 CN-235, as well as one other aircraft of unknown type) entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations.

The 12 F-16 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

The 2 C-130 and 1 C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus also flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction as well.

99-08376 (E) 240399

The C-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic at 1126 hours. On the afternoon of the same day, the same aircraft departed at 1621 hours, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region.

On 22 March 1999, one C-130, as well as one C-650 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. On the same day both aircraft departed that airport, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, these unauthorized Turkish intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, simultaneously, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once more, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998) which called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his mission of good offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.